

## SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

February 28, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.

### PRELUDE

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

### SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### FIRST READING *Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16*

When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.” Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, “Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. . . . And God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### EPISTLE *Romans 5:1–11*

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of

the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **HOLY GOSPEL** *Mark 8:27–38*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the eighth chapter.

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” And they told him, “John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.” And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.” And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him. And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.” And he called to him the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **SERMON** “What does that mean?” Romans 5:1-11

- I. What does that mean?
- II. What does that mean? Justified (5:1a).
  - To be justified means...
  - What imagery does the word give?
- III. What does that mean? Peace (5:1b; 6-11).
  - What is the Bible's concept of peace?
  - What four things defined our old relationship?
- IV. What does that mean? Access (5:2a)
  - What picture does the word *access* give?
  - What is grace?
- V. What does that mean? Hope (5:2b-5)
  - What is our hope?
  - What is proof this hope is not an illusion?

On one of the warmer nights this week, the Kooi family went on a walk after dinner. I was pulling Mia in her wagon, while Dawn was walking our dog Spritz on her leash. As the sun was beginning to set, she said,

“We have to start heading home since it is getting dark out, and the sun is setting.” The little voice in the wagon said, “Why. Why is the sun setting?” “That is a good question,” I thought to myself. Dawn answered her saying, “Well, that is because the earth rotates, which makes it set.” To that, Mia said, “Why? What does that mean?” Again, another good question. How do you explain something like the earth’s rotation in general, let alone to a toddler? To my wife’s credit, she simply explained it in a way that Mia could understand. Her answer made me wonder how I would have answered that question, along with the inevitable follow-up question: “Why?” or, “What does *that* mean?” It is a good question to ask, isn’t it? Children love to ask that question as it helps them to explore, discover, and learn more about the world around them. What does that mean?

It can be a helpful question for our faith as well. It is no wonder why Martin Luther uses it all throughout his catechism as he teaches the faith. That question helps us to learn, explore, and discover the richness and depth of our Christian faith.

As Christians, we can hear a lot of words in our faith, words like *prophets, apostles, joy, faith, love, and forgiveness*. We can hear a lot of terms, phrases, and concepts like *inspiration, canon, Messiah, the Old Man, or baptismal regeneration*. However, can we explain what they mean? Could we answer the follow-up questions to those answers? Could you explain one of the most important words and concepts of our faith, *justify*? If you had to explain it, could you? Could you tell someone what it means? This morning, Paul employs this helpful method by asking, “What does this mean?” He tells us what it means to be justified, along with the follow-up answers.

**“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith....”** What does that mean? Justified? Simply put, to be justified means “to be declared righteous,” that is, perfectly just and holy according to God’s standards. We know that we don’t even come close to them. The word *justify* creates a courtroom imagery.

You have the Judge, that is, God the Father. You have the person on trial, that is, you! You have the prosecutor, which in the book of Romans, is the Law, the Ten Commandments, and it builds its case against *you*. It says, “Your honor, the defendant has grievously and repeatedly broken your Law. Just today, they have already loved other things more than you. That have misused Your Name, and have slandered the governing authorities. They have lusted in their heart, burned with rage against the person who cut them off coming here, and they told their children some white lies. Tomorrow, they have plans to covet and deal deceptively with their neighbor. I can show you evidence from *everyday* of their existence of countless other infractions. The evidence is too overwhelming and voluminous to present. I rest my case.”

The verdict? It is going to be guilty! You cannot argue your way out of this one, and no lawyer can clear your charges. The sentence? It is going to be eternal death and separation from God. But before the gavel is swung, and the verdict declared, our Advocate and defender appears, Jesus Christ. He says, “I have endured the punishment on their behalf, and I give them my righteousness.” As a result, the judge looks at us, and with a swing of the gavel, says, “Not guilty!” and declares us justified and righteous by faith for Christ’s sake.

Faith isn’t a work, but faith is the means by which the believer receives Jesus’ righteousness. In God’s sight, we are righteous because of Jesus. We are declared “not guilty.” We are justified by faith. What does that mean? Peace.

**“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”** Often, when we think of peace, we often think of the *absence* of something. Maybe it is guilty, worry, problems, conflict, or sadness. We might even associate it with a relaxed feeling, quietness, or nothingness. When the Bible talks of peace, the dominant and overarching notion is that of a restored relationship. It has a different focus.

Our old relationship with God was not good at all. Paul tells us what we were, and what that old relationship was like. He said we were **“weak/powerless.”** We were unable and incapable of saving ourselves. We were spiritually dead in our sins, and were unable to please and come to Him. Paul said we were **“ungodly,”** that is, without God. We were not His. He was not ours. We were **“sinners.”** We constantly and *only* fell short of God’s demands. We were **“enemies,”** that is, actively opposed to God and were under wrath. Since we have been justified, declared righteous by faith in Christ, we have peace.

Our new relationship with God is completely different. We are not weak and powerless, but are made alive in Him. We live for Him and others in response to the wonderful new life and grace He has given us. We

are no longer “ungodly” but *God’s* through the waters of baptism, where He adopted and claimed us as His own. We are no longer enemies, but friends. The wrath is removed and satisfied by Christ. We are made right with *Him*. The separation is removed. The wall is torn down. The chasm is filled. We have peace with God. All is right and well with Him through Jesus Christ. **“Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”** And what does that mean? We have access.

**“Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand....”** With the word *access*, Paul gives us another picture image. It conveys the idea of entering before a king, like in a palace or temple. Since we have peace, our relationship is right with God, we are free to come to God’s throne of grace with any and every petition. He invites us to come to Him, and to pour out our heart before Him. What weighs on your heart and mind? Is a sin troubling you? Is there a fear or stress that wakes you up at night and pins you to the sheets with fright? Tell Him. Is there something you want to thank Him for? Let Him know what blessings and gifts that He richly provides for you that you are appreciative and thankful for. We have access...and our access is into this grace, in which we stand.

Note that this is a present thing. Grace is not a one-time gift. We live in it eternally. As Christians, we live our entire life in this grace. It won’t ever run dry or run out. There is no limit or ration. Grace is God’s undeserved mercy and kindness. Our relationship with Him is based on this. I don’t have to worry about messing things up, or think that I have to find a way to stay on God’s good side. I don’t have to fear that He will stop being good to me, or that He will treat me differently because of something I have done. That’s not grace. Our relationship and life is based on His undeserved mercy and kindness. **“Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand....”** And what does that mean? It means that we have hope.

A few months ago, I finished a book about a man named Hans who endured five years in a Russian labor camp, also known as a Gulag. His perseverance was remarkable amidst the bleak circumstances. His typical day would begin with a two-hour walk to the mine, where there he would put in a ten-hour shift. His tools were pick-axes, shovels, and a wheel barrel. After his shift, he would do the two hour walk back to camp to receive his dinner, which was watery soup and a piece of bread the size of his palm. His bed was three pieces of wood with lice-ridden hay. That first winter, Hans said over half of the 4,000 prisoners died. The main reason? Hopelessness. He said he saw healthy people die from hopelessness. He remarked that those who made it home were those who held on to the hope that they would one day be released. Hope. Hope sustains in difficult trials. Hope points ahead to brighter and better days. Hope pushes us forward when a step seems almost impossible to take. As Christians, what is our hope? **“The glory of God.”**

We have the promise of eternal life in Heaven. We have the hope of a fully restore experience of His image and presence in eternity. We have the hope that we will share in Christ’s victory. What we have now is just a tiny foretaste of the unspeakably greater joy of sharing in the glories of heaven and God Himself. This glorious hope makes bearable our inevitable crosses and difficulties that come in life. This glorious hope also changes how we see them.

Bo Giertz summarizes and applies the next verses well. He says, “We can even be proud and rejoice in our suffering. We know that God changes them into something good when we bear them in faith in Christ. Essentially, they teach us perseverance. The way home to God passes through many hardships, temptations, and persecutions. But these things do not break us. They make us stronger. And precisely because we stand to the test, our hope is solidified-the hope that we all share in Christ’s victory when He comes in glory. This hope is not an illusion. It proceeds from the fact that here and now Christ is powerful to keep us standing in all difficulties. There is further proof that this hope is not an illusion, Paul says.” What is that proof?

**“Because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”** God is generous in pouring out His love to us. It is like an overwhelming flood. That love is poured out through His Holy Spirit, whom He gifts to us through baptism and the Word. The hope that we have is enduring and true.

**“We have been justified by faith.”** What does that mean? **“we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and**

**hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."**

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

### **MUSIC DURING PREPARATION**

### **PREFACE**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, who on the tree of the cross did give salvation unto mankind that, whence death arose, thence life might rise again; and that he who by a tree once overcame might likewise by a tree be overcome; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, through whom with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

### **SANCTUS**

**People: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:**

**Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.**

**Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**People:** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## **THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## **PAX DOMINI**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People:** Amen.

## **DISTRIBUTION**

*You are invited to receive the Lord's Supper if you believe and confess that Jesus Christ is your Savior from sin, you are a baptized child of the Triune God, and you believe that He gives you His body and blood in the bread and wine you receive. White grape juice can be found in the center of each tray for those who cannot receive alcohol. Children are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

*In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:*

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace.

**People:** Amen.

## **MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION**

## **POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

## **BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**People:** Amen.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **POSTLUDE "God Loved the World So That He Gave" LSB 571**

1. God loved the world so that He gave

His only Son the lost to save,

That all who would in Him believe

Should everlasting life receive.

2. Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,  
Who was made flesh and suffered death;  
All then who trust in Him alone  
Are built on this chief cornerstone.

3. God would not have the sinner die;  
His Son with saving grace is nigh;  
His Spirit in the Word declares  
How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.

4. Be of good cheer, for God's own Son  
Forgives all sins which you have done;  
And, justified by Jesus' blood,  
Your Baptism grants the highest good.

5. If you are sick, if death is near,  
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:  
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;  
That is the firmest ground of faith.

6. Glory to God the Father, Son,  
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To You, O blessed Trinity,  
Be praise now and eternally!  
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### **Acknowledgments**

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GENEROSITY THOUGHTS:** *Mark 8:32 – “And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.” Anytime we sin we are acting like Peter: thinking we know better than the Lord. But as Jesus says, such acts stem from Satan. So let us repent: let us trust our Lord Jesus and follow Him. For certainly He has earned our trust with His gracious sacrifice for us.*

**LENTEN MIDWEEK WORSHIP** will be held at Emmaus on Wednesdays through March 24 at 11:30 a.m. There will be an evening service at Bethel Lutheran Church at 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday (April 1) and Good Friday (April 2) will have the same schedule.

**PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY:** Wednesdays we will have a prayer and Bible Study group. Please check with Pastor Kooi for the current start time. Each week, we will gather together to pray and study a text. We will be meeting in-person and virtually. For those that attend virtually, we will have you join us via Zoom (contact Pastor Kooi for the link). Please contact Pastor Kooi for more details.

**REGISTER FOR CONCORDIA ACADEMY CAMPS:** This summer, Concordia Academy offers over 30 sports, arts, and STEM summer camps for elementary, middle, and high school students. New offerings include Cardboard Creations, Coding, Stop Motion Animation, and Sweet Treats & Healthy Eats! Go to [www.concordiaacademy.com/camps](http://www.concordiaacademy.com/camps) to get details and register.

**HEAR “THE LUTHERAN HOUR”** on Sunday mornings at 6:05 a.m. on WCCO 830 AM radio. Next week’s broadcast: “A Place to Belong” Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. A house is not a person—but, could a Person be a house, a place to belong? Dr. Michael Zeigler talks about finding that place, in Christ. (Mark 11: 1-26)